Legislative Proposals for the 2010 Legislative Session

The legislature began hearing legislative proposals January 11th. There are several bills being considered that might affect the Electrical Program. If you are interested in these or other proposed legislation, you can find bill information at the legislative website: http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/

- HB 1008     Wind turbine requirements
- HB 2546     Increasing requirement for trainee education
- HB 2555     Granting Electrical Program subpoena power
- SB 5021     Exempt renewable power sources from chapter RCW 19.28 (Electrical oversight)

This legislation is not sponsored or promoted by L&I. It has been submitted for consideration by individuals and associations interested in changing the law to promote their causes.

Identification Requirements for Electrical Examination Candidates

In order to ensure that the appropriate person is taking the examination, all candidates taking an electrician or administrator exam from L&I’s examination contractor, PSI, will need to provide two forms of identification before being allowed to test.

This applies each time you test. One must be a VALID form of government issued identification (e.g. driver’s license, state ID, passport, etc.). The second must have your signature and preprinted legal name (e.g. employee ID, credit/debit card, etc.). Identification must match the name on the registration form.

If you are unable to provide this identification, you must contact PSI at least three weeks prior to attempting your examination in order to make special arrangements.

Do not schedule for an examination unless you have the required identification or have made special arrangements with PSI.

Maintaining Fire Alarm Systems Requires Appropriate Electrical Licensing and Certification

WAC 212-12-035(2) in the Fire Marshall’s rules requires that, “In all Group E-3, I, LC Occupancies, annual certification of fire alarm systems shall be performed by the holder of a current low-voltage electrical contractors specialty license issued by the Department of Labor and Industries.”

Labor and Industries regulates the licensing of electrical contractors and the certification of workers who perform electrical work. Fire alarm testing or maintenance work that involves disconnecting and reconnecting electrical connections or replacing components must be performed by a properly licensed electrical contractor employing properly certified electricians or properly supervised trainees in strict conformance with all requirements of chapter 19.28 RCW and chapter 296-46B WAC.

Continuing Education and Trainee Classes are not Completed Until the Roster is Submitted

When taking an electrical training class, you should make certain that the class provider promptly submits the roster for your class. The provider has seven calendar days in which to submit the electronic roster to L&I. You have not completed the class until the roster is submitted to L&I. You can verify that your course provider has properly applied your course credit by reviewing your education information at:

https://fortress.wa.gov/Lni/bbip/Search.aspx

Safety Tip of the Month!

Practice safe work methods. Never assume a circuit is off. Always turn the circuit off and verify that it is not energized before working on or inspecting an electrical system.

De-energized circuits never shock or kill!
Completed courses are no longer displayed on our external website if they have been applied to satisfy previous renewal requirements. Contact the course provider if you are missing credit for a completed course. Completion certificates will not be accepted as evidence that your education requirements have been fulfilled.

If you do not complete the class or the roster is not submitted in a timely manner, you may be late in completing your education requirements.

Do not wait until the last minute to take your class.

- **Licensing and Certification Requirements for Mixed Occupancy Buildings of Three Floors or Less**

It is becoming more common for owners and builders to construct buildings with mixed use occupancies.

For example, you may see a three story building with the street level as retail commercial and the top two floors being residential occupancy. In this example, an (02) Residential specialty can work in the residential occupancy area because the building is no higher than 3 stories above grade. For practical purposes, the commercial or residential floors could be at any of the three levels.

The residential specialty is restricted to working only inside the residential occupancy area(s) of the building. Occupancy areas are set by the building official. To confirm the occupancy rating, you must look at the approved building plans or contact the building official.

As an installer or inspector, you must remain aware that the residential specialty is limited to very specific wiring methods. Review WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a) for specific restrictions.

Any part of the residential occupancy’s electrical system located outside the residential occupancy area(s) (i.e. in the commercial occupancy area, etc.) must be installed by a (01) general or appropriate specialty contractor/electrician. Any part of the commercial occupancy’s electrical system located within the residential occupancy must be installed by a (01) general or appropriate specialty contractor/electrician.

This restriction may require the (01) contractor/electrician to install feeders and/or branch circuits from/through the commercial occupancy area to the residential areas.

In the example to the right, the (01) must install the feeders from the building service in the retail space to the two residential sub-panels. The (02) may install the residential sub-panels and the wiring from them so long as it remains inside the residential areas. If residential wiring passes through the retail space, the wiring must be installed by the (01).

All

- **Sizing and Disconnect Requirements for NEC 702 Optional Standby Systems**

Installers should be aware that NEC 702.5(B) requires that the load connected to a supply source be calculated in accordance with NEC 220. Optional sources of power connected through an automatic transfer switch must be sized to supply the full calculated load. For instance, if the calculation showed a load of 2.5 kw, the optional source of power (e.g. generator, etc.) must be sized at least 2.5 kw.

Another installation problem routinely encountered by inspectors is the failure of the installer to use a properly rated disconnecting means for outdoor generator sets. NEC 702.11 requires that the disconnecting means must meet the requirements of NEC 225.36. NEC 225.36 requires that the disconnecting means be suitable for use as service equipment, except that in garages and outbuildings on residential property, a snap switch or a set of 3-way or 4-way snap switches are permitted as the disconnecting means.

- **Electrical Question of the Month**

*This Month’s Question:* The output of a utility interactive inverter in an interconnected electric power production system may be connected to _____ of the service disconnecting means. A) the line side, B) the load side, C) only the load side, D) the line or load side

*Last Month’s Question:* What is the ampacity of a #2 AWG aluminum Type SE cable used as an apartment unit main feeder installed indoors in an 80 °F environment? A) 75 amps, B) 95 amps, C) 100 amps, D) 90 amps. The answer is: C) 100 amps as allowed by NEC 310.15(B)(6)